



File Code: 3410 (NA-05-09)
Date: September 26, 2006

Subject: 2006 Aerial Sketchmapping Survey

To: Mary O'Brien Reddan, Forest Supervisor
Wayne National Forest

On June 21, 2006, Lauren Miles, Rick Turcotte, and Rod Whiteman from Forest Health Protection (FHP), Morgantown, along with Michele Stephens, conducted an aerial sketchmapping survey of the Wayne National Forest (WNF). The accompanying maps show the general locations and types of damage observed during these flights. Table 1 lists the estimated acreage of damage observed during this survey.

This year, we mapped a total of 5,255 acres (203 polygons) of visible damage on Federal land. Ground truthing surveys of 67 polygons (33 percent) revealed that a number of different defoliators were active on a variety of hardwoods (chestnut oak, white oak, maples, sycamore, and black locust). The most commonly reported agents were oak skeletonizers and the locust leafminer, which appeared to be particularly heavy again this year. Because the majority (91 percent) of the defoliation mapped was low (equal to or less than 50 percent), no reduction in tree vitality or widespread refoliation is expected.

Conifer mortality was mapped on both Ranger Districts and the Marietta unit. This mortality appeared to be confined to white pine plantations. Individual scattered tree mortality and continuous pockets of mortality were observed. Scattered tree mortality and branch dieback were reported throughout the Ironton Ranger District in the ice storm-damaged areas. This mortality trend is expected to continue in these areas as trees damaged by the ice storm succumb to increased competition and attack by insects.

Table 1. *Estimated acreage of damage observed within the Wayne National Forest proclamation boundaries during the June 21 aerial survey.*

District or Unit	Native Defoliators* (acres)	Mortality (Ice damage) (acres)	Mortality conifer resources (acres)	Unknown (acres)	# of Field-Checked Polygons
Marietta	570	-	352	379	25
Athens	698	-	569	192	19
Ironton	117	1,742	86	404	23

*Native defoliators include oak skeletonizers, locust leafminer, looper complex, and common oak moth

No reports of insect defoliation were received by this office. District Rangers and other field-going personnel are reminded that they have the primary responsibility for on-the-ground, initial detection of insect and/or disease outbreaks. We ask that all field personnel continue to monitor for evidence of insect activity defoliation, discoloration, and mortality in their areas and



report any insect and disease activity to the Morgantown Field Office. Activity such as an unusually high number of moths present in the forest in early spring and late summer, may be a prelude to a heavy defoliation event by defoliators.

I personally would also like to extend my appreciation to Michele and Lauren for their valuable assistance in this survey. If you or any of your staff have any questions or comments regarding this survey, please contact Rick Turcotte or Ann Steketee at (304) 285-1503.

Sincerely,

JOHN W. HAZEL

Field Representative
Forest Health Protection

Cc: District Ranger, Athens RD and Marietta Unit w/enclosures
District Ranger, Ironton RD w/enclosures
RMT/AKS